

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A depositing device for depositing flowable food containing gas comprising

a pressurized feed line conveying flowable food containing gas under pressure into a food;

piston means operatively connected to the feed line comprising a piston and a chamber; an outlet to deliver food at atmospheric pressure into moulds;

a pressure retaining means for retaining the food in the chamber at the same pressure as a line pressure and deliver the food through the outlet as pressure in the chamber becomes greater than the line pressure upon descent of the piston in the chamber, whereby there is no decrease in food pressure until food exits the outlet.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 1, wherein the pressure retaining means is a pressure actuated valve located at the outlet.

Claim 3 (original): Depositing device according to claim 1, wherein the pressure actuated valve is a spring-loaded nozzle.

Claim 4 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 2, wherein the valve is calibrated to open at a pressure of greater than 0.5 bar above the line pressure.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 1, wherein the line pressure is between 2 to 30 bars.

Claim 6 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 1, wherein a valve is located between the feed line and chamber which operates between an opening position wherein the chamber is filled with flowable food and a closed position wherein the chamber is isolated from the feed line.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 6, wherein the valve at the feed line comprises a rotary valve bar comprising at least one passage upon rotation of the valve at a coinciding position between the feed line and the chamber and has a sealing surface extending along an angular path of at least 130 degrees.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 1, wherein the outlet has a spreading configuration and splits the stream into a plurality of streams.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Depositing device according to claim 1, wherein the piston is driven under a servo control to break down its stroke under multiple steps to deliver discrete volumes of product at high speed.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A device for producing food containing gaseous bubbles from a pumpable product comprising:

a plurality of depositing devices each comprising a pressurized feed line conveying flowable food containing gas under pressure into a food, piston means operatively connected to the feed line comprising a piston and a chamber, an outlet to deliver food at atmospheric pressure into moulds, a pressure retaining means for retaining the food in the chamber at the same pressure as a line pressure and deliver the food through the outlet as pressure in the chamber increases above the line pressure upon descent of the piston in the chamber, whereby there is no decrease in food pressure until food exits the outlet,

a feed line for conveying the pumpable product to the depositing devices,

pump means for pumping the pumpable product through the feed line,

a source of gas for incorporating gas into the pumpable product, connected to the feed line,

the pump means being arranged to draw off gas from the gas source and control gas intake into the feed line by the control of the speed of the pump means.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A device according to claim 10, wherein the pump means comprises a first and second pump located in series along a portion of line of the feed line and wherein the second pump is driven at a greater speed than the speed of the first pump thereby incorporating gas into said portion of line due to a fluid speed difference.

Claim 12 (original): A device according to claim 11, wherein the line pressure is generated entirely by the first pump.

Claim 13 (original): A device according to claim 12, wherein the line pressure is substantially constant from the exit of the first pump to the depositing devices.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A device according to claim 13, wherein control of the gas intake into the pumpable product is made by controlling the speed of the second pump relative to the speed of the first pump.

Claim 15 (original): A device according to claim 14, wherein the ratio of the speed of the first pump to the speed of the second pump is controlled within a ratio ranging of from 1:1.1 to 1:2.

Claim 16 (original): A device according to claim 15, wherein the pressure is controlled by a pressure transducer that controls a pressure retaining valve for removing excess of product from the discharge means.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A device according to claim 10, wherein the first and second pumps are selected from the group consisting of gear pumps, vane pumps and screw pumps.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A method for aerating and depositing an aerated food comprising pumping a food from a source of liquefied food,

adding gas from a source of gas in controlled amounts in the liquefied food to produce a gasified food;

maintaining a constant pressure of the gasified food and retaining the product at said pressure before a depositing point to prevent the product from expanding; and

depositing amounts of the gasified food by forcing the product through the depositing point.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A device comprising:

a pressurized feed line for allowing a food containing gas to flow therethrough;

a piston and a chamber operatively connected to the feed line;

an outlet to deliver a food at the atmospheric pressure into moulds from the chamber; and

the food being retained in the chamber at the same pressure as a line pressure and the food being delivered through the outlet as pressure in the chamber increases from the line pressure upon descent of the piston in the chamber, whereby there is no decrease in food pressure until food exits the outlet.